School: Paseo Grande

English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC) Meeting Minutes

Q1 September 3, 2026 @ 3:00pm - Virtual Teams Meeting

Facilitators

- Dr. Damaris Owens
- Gabrielle McCord
- Heather Barnhart

Attendees

- Dr. Damaris Owens
- Gabrielle McCord
- Carmen Robledo – SDMA Parent
- Terra Greenwood – Parent Participant
- Cynthia Garcia-Doane – Multilingual Department
- Emily Berkowitz – Multilingual/ELD Program Specialist
- Lisa Romero – Multilingual Paraprofessional
- Sandra Alcantar Lopez – Multilingual Teacher
- Brianna Simoneau – Middle School Lead
- Isabella Robledo – SDMA Student
- Kiyo – Student Participant
- Parent of Kingston Navarrete
- Additional students, parents/caregivers, and staff members

Meeting Purpose

Dr. Damaris Owens opened Elev8 Online School's first quarterly English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC) meeting.

The purpose of the ELAC meeting was to:

- Review the school's Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP)

- Review English Learner progress data
- Discuss English Learner reclassification goals
- Review current supports for Multilingual Learners
- Gather parent and student feedback
- Provide opportunities for parents/caregivers to participate in ELAC leadership

Translation support was offered to participants at the beginning of the meeting.

ELAC Discussion

1. English Learner Progress

The team reviewed English Learner progress data and discussed the school's goal for 52% of English Learner students to demonstrate progress toward English proficiency.

Staff shared that all three Elev8 schools demonstrated significant growth and were close to meeting the 52% target.

The group discussed the importance of continuing to support students who have not yet demonstrated expected progress toward English proficiency.

Participants were asked:

What factors may be contributing to this gap, and how can we better support students who are still working toward proficiency?

Parent Feedback

Terra Greenwood recommended:

- More frequent check-ins with students and parents.
- Regularly reviewing student goals with families.
- Discussing specific strategies students can use to make progress toward English proficiency.
- Increasing direct communication with families regarding student progress.

Student Feedback

Kiyo recommended:

- Creating study groups for students who may be struggling.
- Pairing students who need additional support with students who are making strong progress.
- Including teachers in study groups to help explain challenging concepts and provide additional academic support.
- Using peer-to-peer support to help students feel more comfortable asking questions and learning from one another.

Staff Response

Gabrielle McCord thanked participants for their feedback and specifically noted that the study group and peer-support model could be an excellent approach for supporting student progress.

2. New Supports for Multilingual Learners

The school shared several supports that have already been added or strengthened based on previous parent and family feedback.

These included:

- Adding additional multilingual support staff.
- Increasing direct support for English Learners.
- Continuing to strengthen services designed to help students progress toward English proficiency and reclassification.

Staff highlighted support provided by:

- Lisa Romero – Multilingual Paraprofessional
- Cynthia Garcia-Doane – Multilingual Department
- Emily Berkowitz – Multilingual/ELD Program Specialist

The school shared its commitment to continuing to strengthen academic and language supports for Multilingual Learners.

3. Reclassification and Student Success

The team reviewed the importance of helping English Learners make progress toward reclassification.

Discussion emphasized:

- Monitoring individual student progress.
- Providing targeted academic intervention.
- Maintaining regular communication with students and families.
- Identifying barriers that may be preventing students from progressing.
- Providing additional support before students fall significantly behind.

4. Attendance and Early Intervention

Participants discussed the importance of identifying attendance concerns early.

Feedback included:

- Reviewing student attendance consistently.
- Identifying students who miss approximately 10% or more of instructional time.
- Reaching out to students and families early when attendance begins to become a concern.
- Connecting families with appropriate academic or school supports.

The group discussed how proactive outreach can help prevent attendance challenges from having a greater impact on student progress.

5. ELAC Committee Recruitment

Parents and caregivers were informed about opportunities to become more involved in the ELAC committee.

Potential leadership positions discussed included:

- Chairperson
- Vice Chairperson
- Secretary

Parents and caregivers were encouraged to consider participating in leadership roles and helping guide future ELAC meetings and discussions.

6. Family Engagement and Meeting Format

Gabrielle McCord explained that ELAC and PAC meetings are intentionally being held in a smaller, more interactive format this year.

Previous parent feedback indicated that some families did not feel comfortable speaking or participating in meetings with approximately 60–100 attendees.

The goal of the smaller meeting format is to:

- Encourage more parent and student participation.
- Create a welcoming environment where families feel comfortable speaking.
- Promote meaningful conversation rather than one-way information sharing.
- Give parents and students a stronger voice in school decisions.
- Build stronger relationships between families and school staff.

7. LCAP Discussion and Feedback

Participants were asked:

How do you believe our school can achieve its LCAP goals?

Discussion included the importance of:

- Increasing parent and student communication.
- Providing early academic intervention.
- Monitoring English Learner progress consistently.
- Identifying students who are struggling before they fall further behind.
- Strengthening academic support and tutoring opportunities.
- Continuing to improve engagement with families.

Participants were also asked:

Knowing that these resources are meant to increase student achievement and support specific student groups, what priorities or programs do you think would make the biggest impact for our students this year?

Feedback included:

- High-dosage tutoring.
- Targeted mental health programs.
- Additional academic intervention.
- Study groups.
- Peer mentoring and peer academic support.
- Increased direct outreach to students who are struggling.

8. Feedback Survey

Participants were asked to complete the Q1 ELAC/LCAP Survey.

The survey gathered feedback regarding:

- Supports currently helping English Learners.
- Additional supports that may improve student success.
- Communication between the school and families.
- Parent and student priorities.

Survey Link and Sheet Link:
https://forms.gle/BhCZHScTV7P5vvxS8xt

PAC/ELAC PCG Feedback Sheet

9. Positive Student and Family Feedback

Students and families also shared positive feedback regarding their experience at Elev8.

One student expressed appreciation for their teacher and shared that staff members are consistently helpful and supportive.

Another participant described Elev8 staff as kind and amazing people.

Staff thanked students and families for sharing their experiences and participating in the meeting.

ELAC Feedback and Recommendations

The following recommendations were provided directly by participants during the meeting:

1. Increase the frequency of student and parent goal check-ins.
2. Improve ongoing communication with families about student progress.
3. Create study groups that include peer mentors and teacher support.
4. Increase direct outreach to students who are struggling academically.
5. Continue strengthening tutoring and targeted academic intervention.
6. Monitor attendance and English Learner progress closely so interventions can begin early.
7. Continue creating opportunities for parents and students to provide meaningful feedback.

Upcoming ELAC Meeting

Next ELAC Meeting: November 19

The next meeting will follow a similar format and provide additional opportunities for:

- Parent and student feedback.
- Review of English Learner progress.
- Discussion of student supports.
- ELAC committee participation and leadership opportunities.

Adjournment / Transition

The ELAC portion of the meeting concluded after participant feedback and discussion.

Staff thanked parents, caregivers, students, and team members for their participation and valuable input.

The meeting then transitioned into the Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) portion.

End: 3:22pm